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BT

UNCLAS LA PAZ 0908

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

SUBJ: ALTMANN EXTRADITION REQUEST CONTINUES "UNDER STUDY"

REF : LA PAZ 669

1. FRENCH GOVERNMENT REQUEST FOR EXTRADITION OF KLAUS ALTMANN, WHO GOES CHARGES IS GESTAPO OFFICIAL KLAUS BARBIE, IS STILL "UNDER STUDY WITHIN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY" ACCORDING TO FOREIGN MINISTER GUTIERREZ IN PRESS DECLARATION REPORTED IN FEBRUARY 17 EL DIARIO. IN OTHER OFFICIAL FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENTS SUBSECRETARY TAPIA, REACTING TO ALLEGED FRENCH PRESS STATEMENT THAT FRENCH AND U.S. GOVERNMENTS SHOULD "PRESSURE" GOB TO EXTRADITE ALTMANN, COMMENTED THAT GOB WOULD NOT BE PRESSURED BY ANYONE AND THAT DECISION WOULD BE MADE ON BASIS OF "BOLIVIAN LAWS AND INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS".

2. IN REACTION TO PRESS REPORTS THAT ALTMANN HAD FLED TO PARAGUAY, SUBSECRETARY OF IMMIGRATION GREMINGER RELEASED AN OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE DENYING THAT ALTMANN HAD "LEFT THE COUNTRY" OR THAT HE WAS BEING PROTECTED BY ANY "GOB OFFICIAL". THE FEBRUARY 17 PRESS ALSO REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT BANZER HAD RECENTLY RECEIVED A PERSONAL LETTER FROM FRENCH PRESIDENT POMPIDOU CONCERNING THE CASE, BUT THAT HE HAD NOT YET ANSWERED IT. NO DETAILS WERE GIVEN ON THE CONTENTS OF THE LETTER.

BT # 0908

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